

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004 and the advisory action mailed on July 13, 2004. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing patentable subject matter in claims 13, 15 and 17.

Representative for the applicants, Rattan Nath, interviewed with Examiner Yang on September 7, 2004. Examiner Yang agreed with the proposed amendments to place the claims in order for allowance. She also suggested that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) be filed with the response in view of possible processing delays at the Patent Office. Accordingly, applicants are filing a RCE with this response.

In accordance with the above-mentioned interview, applicants have amended claims 11, 14, and 16 to incorporate the subject matter of objected to claims 13, 15 and 17 respectively. Since amended independent claims 11, 14, and 16 have the same scope as the objected to claims 13, 15 and 17 respectively, the objection to the allowance of claims 13, 15 and 17 has been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that they be allowed.

In addition, claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 15 and 17, thus making claim 7 allowable as well over the prior art for the same reasons as for recognizing allowable subject matter in claims 15 and 17.

Claims 13, 15 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice in view of the above-described amendments. Since all pending claims dependent upon any of the independent claims 7, 11, 14, or 16 are also patentable, it is requested that the remaining claims be also allowed to proceed to issuance. Applicants do not believe the use of reference numerals in the figures is improper since they have been fully described in the specification. However, if the Office Action insists, applicants will amend the drawings by using labels instead of numerals. However, such a correction to the drawings is not intended to preclude future claims from including elements that are no longer identified by reference numerals.

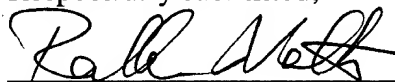
CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added and this response is directed to only placing the application in order for issuance. A petition for an extension of time for two months accompanies this response along with the RCE and the required fee authorizations to ensure that this response is timely.

In light of the above remarks and the accompanying submissions, the applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance without delay.

Date: September 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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